



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

Reply to Attn: WD-126

May 4, 1995

Lynn Burditt
District Ranger
Blue River Ranger Station
Blue River, Oregon 97413

Dear Ms. Burditt:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Long Term Ecosystem Productivity project, Willamette National Forest, Blue River Ranger District. Our review was conducted under the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, which directs EPA to review and comment on all federal EISs.

Following our review, EPA has found no significant statutory or jurisdictional issues from its perspective. We are rating this draft EIS LO (Lack of Objections). An explanation of the EPA rating system is enclosed for your reference. This rating will be published in the Federal Register.

EPA supports the proposed action which would allocate eighteen sections of the Willamette National Forest for research purposes in the East Fork Deer Creek drainage. The study is designed to answer key questions about long-term forest productivity and to share these findings with the public. As per our April 1995 phone conversation with Karen Geary, we would like to see more emphasis placed on the importance of monitoring in the final EIS. Although the draft EIS references the Governing Research Study Plan for additional information regarding monitoring, EPA would prefer it if this, or a summary of this information could be included in the draft EIS itself. This is because the proposed project would rely on information collected in the field to assess the parameters of the study. Such a large emphasis would be placed on this information that a review of the proposed monitoring methods and plans would be appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this draft EIS. We appreciate your consideration of our comments at this stage in the process. If you have any questions regarding our review, please contact John Bregar, in our Environmental Review Section at (206) 553-1984.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joan Cabreza", is written above the typed name.

Joan Cabreza, Chief
Environmental Review Section

Enclosure: Rating System Summary